



Transportation

November 2015 Newsletter

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Division 14

COUNTIES SERVED | Cherokee, Clay,  
Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson,  
Swain, Transylvania

## NCDOT Reminds Motorists to Keep Alert for Deer During Fall Months



This pretty girl can be dangerous. NCDOT wants to remind drivers to watch out for deer during the fall months.

As the temperature starts dropping and leaves start falling, another sign of the changing season is more deer along North Carolina roadways and in turn, a greater chance of hitting a deer.

Between 2012 and 2014, nearly half of the 58,372 animal-related crashes in the state took place from October through December. About 90 percent of those involved deer.

A new [N.C. Department of Transportation study](#) shows there were 17,831 animal-related crashes in 2014 - the lowest number since 2006. But over the past three years, animal-related crashes claimed 11 lives, injured 3,386 drivers and passengers and caused nearly \$145 million in damages.

The top five counties with animal-related crashes reported last year in North Carolina include:

1. Wake: 794
2. Pitt: 562
3. Guilford: 550
4. Duplin: 445

## Stay Connected



N.C. Transportation  
Now

On this week's N.C. Transportation Now, the department awards a contract for construction of a new temporary bridge on Pea Island, a new connector road has opened in Mooresville to provide better access to industrial areas, and tickets are now available for the Santa Train.

[Watch here.](#)

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[Find out where your county stacks up.](#)

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## Mountain Maintenance Crews have a Snow-less Snow Day



NCDOT maintenance crews are getting ready for the coming snow season.

In preparation for the snow to come, NCDOT maintenance crews in counties across the mountains have scheduled a "snow day." The prep work is part of a dry run where crews familiarize themselves with their snow routes and make sure equipment is functioning properly.

NCDOT's snow and ice clearing equipment includes more than 1,900 trucks equipped with plows and spreaders, 325 front-end loaders and backhoes and 450 motor graders statewide.

With so many pieces of equipment, it's crucial to ensure each one is operating correctly and efficiently. That way, when the storm hits, the trucks, plows and spreaders are ready to go. Also during the dry run, crews assess quantities of salt, sand and calcium, which are all essentials during snow and ice removal.

After the equipment is tested, NCDOT crews take to the roads and drive their snow-removal routes. Roads and surroundings can look vastly different when covered in snow and ice, so it's important for crews to familiarize themselves with their routes in advance of winter weather.

Statewide, NCDOT has approximately 160,000 tons of storage capacity, and each county should be at maximum capacity as winter approaches. As the season progresses and salt is utilized, crews restock on an as needed basis.

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### NCDOT News

Get more news, project updates, and real-time traffic at

[NCDOT.gov](https://www.ncdot.gov).

## **Board Approves Allocation of Additional Funds for Highway and Bridge Maintenance and Preservation**

The recently passed state budget will allow NCDOT to make a greater investment in taking care of and improving North Carolina's existing highways and bridges.

The General Assembly appropriated nearly \$500 million in additional funding in the two-year budget (for fiscal years 2016 and 2017) for maintenance and preservation work. NCDOT distributes these funds yearly to the divisions based on need.

The Board of Transportation approved each division's initial funding amount for Fiscal Year 2016 at its August meeting, and approved the additional funding at its October meeting.

Here's what that means for Division 14 for Fiscal Year 2016, which runs July 1, 2015, until June 30, 2016:

- An additional \$3.3 million was allocated to improve deficient bridges. This brings the division's total Bridge Program funding to \$14.4 million.
- An additional \$5.8 million was allocated for resurfacing, bringing the total funding for this type of work to \$33.7 million.
- An additional \$2.8 million was allocated for highway preservation, bringing the total funding for this type of work to \$8 million.
- An additional \$2.9 million was allocated for secondary roads, bringing the total funding for this type of work to \$20.2 million.

This will allow the division to accelerate work that had been planned for next fiscal year.

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